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THE

## INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

APRIL 1980

VOL. II, NO. 11

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## STAFF CHANGES

In recent months the Legislative Council research staff has lost two senior researchers. Terry Cohea, who staffed the Revenue Oversight, Coal Tax Oversight, and Taxation Committees, has joined the Office of Budget and Program Planning. Dennis Taylor, who staffed Health, Welfare, and Safety and Local Government Committees, has left to join the Budget and Evaluation staff of the City of Helena. In addition, the division has just lost a more recently added member of the staff. Jim Smith, who was staffing the interim retirement, banking, and local government financing studies, will be leaving to join the Department of Administration's Consulting Services Bureau. These top notch legislative staffers will be missed.

## CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING  
APRIL 11,  
MILES CITY

On Friday, April 11, the Study Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs will meet in Miles City. The Committee will tour Pine Hills School; review the status of the pending lawsuit; and examine the progress of the consent decree negotiations. The Committee will also receive testimony, comments, and suggestions concerning the needs of the juvenile corrections system.

At the February 29 meeting of the Committee, tentative approval was also given to LC 54 - mandatory sentencing for felony offenses. This action was inadvertently omitted from last month's report, and we apologize for that.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

MEETING  
APRIL 18

The next meeting of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs will be held in Billings on April 18, 1980, beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the Conference Room of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board. The Conference Room is located at 300 North 25th Street, Suite 13.

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The meeting will discuss a draft bill that authorizes public agencies to enter into agreements with Montana tribal governments.

#### APRIL MEETINGS

April is to be a busy month for meetings. Previous announcements have reported topics to be discussed. Please see the calendar for a reminder as to dates and times.

#### REVENUE OVERSIGHT

MEETING  
May 10

The next meeting of the Revenue Oversight Committee will be held in Helena in Room 104 of the Capitol, beginning at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, May 10.

The meeting will be primarily devoted to discussion of bill draft requests dealing with the liquor license quota system and with revisions of the greenbelt laws being conducted by the Committee.

#### COAL TAX OVERSIGHT

MEETING  
MARCH 28

The Coal Tax Oversight Committee met in Helena on March 28. In the afternoon the Committee attended a joint meeting between the Coal Board and the Subcommittee of the Finance Committee. Guidelines for coal impact grants were discussed, but no recommendations were made.

The Committee's next meeting will be announced in the next Interim.

#### WATER RESOURCES AND ADJUDICATION OVERSIGHT

WATER PLANNING  
ISSUES  
DISCUSSED  
MARCH 21

The Water Oversight Committee met March 21 to hear reports on a wide-ranging set of issues related to water resources management and planning. Among issues considered were problems in transferring the Daly Ditches from state control to irrigation district control. Committee members questioned estimates of \$75,000 reported as costs for creating a district. Further information on this and other issues is expected at a meeting to be set in late May.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE CODE COMMITTEE

STATE AGENCY  
FORMS REVIEWED

The Administrative Code Committee met on March 24 and 25, devoting a majority of its meeting to the review

NEXT MEETING  
APRIL 22

of government forms, is part of the government paperwork study mandated by SB 287. Each Committee member had previously chosen several state executive agencies for which he would review forms the agencies require to be filled out by the public. The Committee also reviewed Volume 5 of the 1980 Montana Administrative Register. At the next meeting, scheduled for April 22, individual Committee members will visit executive agencies to discuss with the agencies those forms that seem confusing, unnecessary, longer than required, or ask unnecessary questions. Volumes 6 and 7 of the 1980 MAR will also be reviewed.

CAPITOL BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

CAPITOL  
REMODELING  
PLANS UNVEILED

First draft conceptual drawings of a plan to remodel the Capitol following the movement of the Supreme Court and Attorney General to the new Justice Building were unveiled at a March 5 meeting of the Capitol Building and Planning Committee. The plan provides for moving the Senate Chamber to the area now occupied by the State Law Library, expanding committee facilities, and allowing rudimentary office space for legislators. The Committee asked Phil Hauck, state architect, to present the plans to as many interim and statutory legislative committees as possible. If approved in 1981, specific plans will be prepared for review in 1983. Construction could thus begin only after the 1983 session.

WALL NICHE  
PROGRAM

To implement SJR 13, which called for commemoration of "outstanding Montanans" in the wall niches on the second floor of the Capitol, the Montana Arts Council recently has developed plans for nomination, selection and installation with dedication ceremonies scheduled for December.

Working with the Capitol Building and Planning Committee, nine niches in the west wing have been tentatively approved for initiating the program. Senator Chet Blaylock, prime sponsor of the resolution, also has been consulted in designing the process.

LEGISLATORS  
TO PASS ON  
NOMINATIONS

The nomination deadline will be May 30, 1980. Though the nomination process will be open to the public, plans call for having nominations submitted through legislators to the Arts Council. Legislators soon will be receiving nomination forms, including criteria and procedures, from the Montana Arts Council.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORTS ISSUED

At the March 17, 1980 meeting, the Committee received, reviewed, and filed the financial/compliance audit

report on the Advisory Council for Vocational Education.

Public hearings were held on the sunset reports of the Boards of Veterinarians, Pharmacists, Chiropractors, Podiatry Examiners, and Sanitarians.

The Committee also reviewed a survey report on Montana's Energy Programs and Energy Related Activities.

CONTRACT  
AUDITS

The Committee selected the following certified public accountant firms to perform audits: Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens - Missoula Vocational Technical Center; DeVries and Morgan - Treasury Division; and Arthur Andersen and Company - Board of Investments.

BOARD OF  
HOUSING

The Committee discussed a request for an audit on the Board of Housing and determined that further audit work for fiscal year 1978-79 would be duplicative of already completed audits, and denied the request.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Legislative Audit Committee was scheduled for May 12 and 13, 1980.

REPORTS  
AVAILABLE

Copies of all reports are available from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol, telephone 449-3122.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Finance Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 28 and 29.

UNIVERSITY  
FUNDING STUDY

A staff report was presented on establishing peer institutions with which to compare Montana schools and in adjusting certain budget items by headcount, rather than FTE students. The Committee determined to hold hearings on the six campuses in the Fall to allow adequate time to gather and analyze data and to formulate tentative Committee recommendations.

COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
FUNDING

The Committee determined to develop a new community college funding law on the basic model of secondary education funding.

STATE SURPLUS

Due to continued inflation, high interest rates, and a robust coal economy, the state's general fund surplus will be between \$30.3 million and \$41.6 million. This unanticipated windfall will increase tax relief by raising the value of personal exemptions to between \$1,100 and \$1,300. The present value is \$1,050.

CARMARKER  
REVENUE

The Committee is studying the effect on Montana's economy of the federal government's decision to increase the 1963 Montana tax liability from 1.5% to 1.75% nationally to fourth quarter portion of revenue dedicated to specific purposes. Since 1962 most states decreased the proportion of revenue dedicated. Montana has increased its share.

AIRPOOL

A staff report was presented which focused on deficits incurred in the operation of the airport. The Committee instructed its staff to review the feasibility of the continued operation of the pool.

NEXT MEETING  
JUNE 19 AND 20

The next meeting of the Committee will be June 19 and 20, Thursday and Friday, at the State Capitol.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

MEETING  
APRIL 25

The next Environmental Quality Council meeting has been tentatively set for Friday, April 25, in Room 104, State Capitol, at 9:00 A.M.

OIL RECYCLING  
AND SMALL  
SCALE HYDRO  
ON AGENDA

The agenda will include a report and discussion of a used oil program for Montana. A representative from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) will provide technical information on small scale hydroelectric generation. Maxine Johnson, Director of the Bureau of Business and Economics, University of Montana, will report on a survey being conducted for the Council.

PLEASE RETURN  
COMMENTS ON  
HJR 60 WORKING  
PAPER

A working paper of House Joint Resolution 60 (Coordination of Permit Procedures) was mailed to legislators in early February. The intent was to generate input, identify specific concerns, and mitigate inherent problems in advance of the next session.

Legislators who have not yet commented on the working paper are encouraged to send specific concerns to the EQC office as soon as possible. This feedback will be addressed at the April 25 meeting. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the EQC office.


CHANGE OF  
ADDRESS

Representative Robert Dozier has a new address:  
318 Miles Avenue, Apt. #2, Billings, Montana 59101.

## LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH APRIL

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

			1	2	3 ENERGY FORECASTING Rm. 104 9 am- 5 pm	4	5
6	Happy Easter 	7	8	9 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS Rm. 104 9:00 am	10	11 CORRECTIONS POLICY AND FACILITY NEEDS Miles City 9 am CONSUMER COUNSEL Rm. 104 10:00 am	12
13		14 BRANCHING OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Rm. 104 9:00 am	15	16	17	18 INDIAN AFFAIRS Billings SEED CERTIFICATION Rm. 104 9:00 am	19 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL Rm. 139 10:00 am LOCAL GOVERNMENT Rm. 104 9:00 am
20		21	22	23	24	25 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL Rm. 104	26
27		28	29	30			



## LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH		MAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SAT	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
						1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

10 REVENUE  
OVERSIGHT  
Rm. 104  
9:30 am

12 LEGISLATIVE  
AUDIT COMMITTEE  
Rm. 104

13 LEGISLATIVE  
AUDIT COMMITTEE  
Rm. 104

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